

TESTIMONY OF JACK KEALEY

March 17th, 2014 before the Environment Committee

SUPPORTING : **Section #2 of HB 5416** - gestation crate ban

SB 445 - sale of puppy mill dogs

OPPOSING: **HB 5080** – Sunday hunting

Representative Gentile, Senator Meyer, and Members of the Environment Committee,

Hello, my name is Jack Kealey and I am a 5th grade student. I would like to thank the Environment Committee for bringing up these bills because they are a great concern of mine.

One of them is HB 5080 which would allow hunting on Sundays. I am opposed to this bill

because only 1% of Connecticut's constituents hunt and 99% should feel free to hike and picnic without worry at least one day of the week. Also kids have a higher risk of getting hurt if hunting is allowed on Sundays because lots of kids like to hike and play in the woods on a weekend when school is out.

I am also supporting section #2 of HB 5416 which would ban gestation crates in Connecticut. I

support this bill because pigs should not go through the horror of gestation crates.

While in gestation crates, they cannot turn around, walk, or barely even move because the crates are so small. Pigs live in gestation crates pretty much their entire lives.

Though there are no gestation crates that we know of in Connecticut, it would be good to ban them now so they don't come later.

Finally I am in support of SB 445 which would stop pet stores from selling puppy mill dogs in the state of Connecticut. Puppy mills are where dogs live before being sent to pet shops.

There is no light, no toys, and no bones to play with. People have seen dead dogs in the puppy mills because these puppy mills are so horrible! They should be banned. I would not want to go into a puppy mill and hear the barking of dogs as they're going through horror and misery. It's truly animal cruelty. You may think you're doing something good by buying a puppy and getting rid of their misery in the puppy mill, but you're not. Once one puppy leaves, they are immediately replaced with another.

Though there are none we know of in the state of Connecticut, I want to stop pet stores from buying puppy mill dogs from other states and encourage other states to join along. I ask you to please add wording to the bill so pet shops get their dogs from rescue groups or shelters instead of puppy mills.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today and if you have any questions and I don't know the answer, I'll be sure to get back to you.